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# SCIENCE

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## PUEBLO ENVIRONMENT.<sup>1</sup>

THE southern portion of the Rocky Mountain Highland has two chief geographic features, the one a depression called the Great Interior Basin and the other the Pueblo Plateau. The latter may be subdivided into the Rio Grande Valley, the Colorado Plateau and the Gila Slope, lying in the four political divisions named Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

This plateau, which contains the bulk of the elevation on the western half of the United States, is mainly embraced in the triangle lying between the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains and the Rio Colorado, the western side being bounded by the Great Basin. Its slope is from north to south in the eastern portion where the Rio Grande drains the trough lying just east of the continental uplift, but the main slope is toward the southwest and is drained by the Colorado and its affluents. The plateau lies from four to ten thousand feet above sea level, but there are great contrasts in elevation from 14,000 feet above to 300 feet below the datum. In this region the north and south ranges of the Rockies break up and form a complex of mountains running

<sup>1</sup> Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section H—American Association for the Advancement of Science, New Orleans, December, 1905.